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THE

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GULL

BULLETIN

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MARCH MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 8th inst., at eight o'clock in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, 2nd Floor, Room 19.

The program for the evening will be a Preliminary Discussion on the Election of a State Bird for California". Teachers, bird students and general public are cordially invited to be present.

* * *

MARCH FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, March 11th, to Point Bonita. This is a very delightful trip, giving those who attend an opportunity to study several species of water birds at the lighthouse as well as land birds en route. Should the day be stormy the trip will be taken the following Sunday. Take Sausalito Ferry, 8:15 a. m. Purchase roundtrip tickets to Sausalito, 25c. Bring lunch and canteens.

Route will be over the shore road to Fort Baker and Battery Spencer; thence by trail overlooking the ocean to Fort Barry and Rodeo Lagoon, where lunch will be eaten on the ocean beach; thence to the lighthouse and return via road and tunnel to Sausalito, a distance of about six miles each way. Those who desire may ride either way by motor bus.

* * *

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING: The one hundred thirty-first regular meeting of the Association was held on February 9th, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, with Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn, President, in the chair; Mrs. Carl Smith, Secretary. Twenty-nine members and guests present.

Mr. Harwell, chairman of the State Bird Committee, gave a report of the various activities in connection with the work, stressing the educational program.

Mr. Joseph Mailliard of the California Academy of Sciences gave his field experiences in Arizona and certainly made his audience most anxious to visit our neighbor State and get a real thrill by seeing so many brightly colored birds, as well as by hearing many new songs and calls. The skins which Mr. Mailliard brought showed some of the outstanding species, while the slides showed habitats.

* * *

SPARROW HAWK TRYING TO FLY WITH DEAD QUAIL

One overcast morning in early January, 1928, while the day was yet young and the visibility none too good, the present writer was traveling with a companion along the highway westerly from Shellville, Sonoma County, California, when a curiously indefinable object was noticed, quite a distance ahead of the car, on the smooth surface of the roadbed.

As the object was rapidly approached it commenced to move, and in a few seconds more it was seen to be a sparrow hawk that was, with great effort, dragging something along and trying to fly off with it. The little hawk did not relinquish its efforts to fly with its burden until the car was almost on top of it, when it dropped its prize and made for a neighboring tree. The prize turned out to be a California quail, still warm. When it was examined it was found that the sparrow hawk already had commenced to feed upon it. One eye had been gouged out and one side of the skull had been torn open, exposing the brain, which was partially picked out.

It was rather surprising to find a sparrow hawk devouring so large a bird as a California quail, and it seemed a little remarkable that it should have so miscalculated its power as to become possessed with the idea that it could fly away with such a relatively heavy burden.

Another quail was lying not far away from the first and it was evident that the flock of these birds, known to range in the immediate vicinity, had sailed down from the hillside above the highway and, in the poor light of the early morning, that two of its members had struck the telephone wire by the side of the road, their impetus carrying them into the center of the roadway. Marks of the collision with the wire were found upon their bodies.

JOSEPH MAILLIARD,

California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, Cal.



LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN SHORE BIRDS

Order *Limicolae* (Part I)

By ARTHUR CLEVELAND BENT

United States National Museum Bulletin No. 142 has just been issued. This is the seventh of a series of bulletins on the life histories of North American birds. The same general plan has been followed as in previous publications.

The classification and nomenclature adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union, in its latest check list and its supplements, have been followed mainly, with such few changes as the author deemed expedient to make in order to bring the work up to date, and in line with recent advances in the science.

The bulletin includes red, northern and Wilson phalaropes, avocets, black-neck stilts, European and American woodcock, European, Wilson, great, and Jack snipes, eastern and long-billed dowitchers, knot, sandpipers, sanderling, godwit, greenshanks, redshanks and yellowlegs.

A bibliography and numerous plates complete the publication. Price 85c (cash or money order). Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.



STUDY OUR MIGRANT SHORE BIRDS IN SOUTH AMERICA

In view of additional protection recently accorded shore birds in this country by amendment to the regulations under the migratory-bird treaty act, a new bulletin just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, "Our Migrant Shorebirds in Southern South America", is of special significance. Many of the birds migrating between the United States and Canada and protected under the treaty make extended journeys each winter to South America.

Of the many species of North American shore birds, there are only twelve that do not visit South America part of the year, and no fewer than twenty-four species pass as far south as Argentina and Chile. In spite of ample protection during their breeding season, many of these birds had been decreasing

in numbers to such an alarming extent that the Biological Survey sent Dr. Alexander Wetmore, author of the new bulletin and now assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, to South America to investigate the conditions encountered by our shore birds in their winter homes.—Copied from *American Forests*, February, 1928.



TERN BANDED IN LABRADOR FOUND IN FRANCE

Another trans-Atlantic flight—and probably a “non-stop” one—has come to light. A communication received by the United States Biological Survey from Professor Robert Poncy of Geneva, Switzerland, incloses a clipping from *Le Chasseur Français* to the effect that M. Robert Pradier of Port Dauphine, La Rochelle, France, found on October 1, 1927, on the Greve de Marsilly, near La Rochelle, “a kind of black-headed gull, known in the region as ‘Hiron-delle de mer’, or sea swallow”. On the right foot of the bird was found an aluminum ring with the inscription: “Notify Biological Survey”, and the number, 548656.

The Biological Survey, which supervises the bird-banding work in the United States and Canada, finds in its records that band No. 548656 was that of an Arctic tern banded when it was between one and five days old July 22, 1927, at the Red Islands, Turnevick, Labrador. The straight distance from Labrador to the coast of France is about 4,200 miles, a remarkable travel record for so young a bird.

This is the second trans-oceanic bird return in the records of the Survey, the first being that of a common tern banded as a nestling on the coast of Maine in 1913, and recovered four years later in the delta of the Niger River on the west coast of Africa. Several other remarkable distances have been traveled by birds recovered from South America. The Biological Survey has about 1,000 volunteer co-operators scattered throughout the United States and Canada, who are helping in the bird-banding work, by means of which valuable data are being collected for the solution of problems regarding the migratory and other habits of wild birds.—Copied from *American Forests*, February, 1928.



ANNUAL CENSUS OF WATER FOWL AT LAKE MERRITT,
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
Duck Count, January 4, 1928

Mallard	28	White-fronted goose.....	1
Baldpate	404	Cackling goose	2
Shoveller	10	Bufflehead	8
Pintail	445	European Widgeon	1
Canvas-back	223	Pied-billed grebe	1
Scaup	20	American eared grebe.....	19
American Goldeneye	37	Western grebe	2
Ruddy	112	White pelican	1
Snow Goose	6		

This was the highest count that I was able to secure at Lake Merritt this winter. “Cans” were notably absent.

JOSEPH DIXON,
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.



THE FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, the 12th. Going by stage to Burlingame, the party alighted at Easton Drive, walked in leisnrely fashion to the ridge, where lunch was eaten, followed down the flume

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to the dam, and then skirted the shores of San Andreas Lake. From here, the way led up to the road and out to the highway at Uncle Tom's Cabin, where street cars and automobiles were requisitioned. Some of the party returned early; others remained for a longer day.

The day was bright and still. A creeper's note was heard as we started up the avenue, but the bird could not be located among the tall trees here. Excursions down the sunny side streets, however, revealed the presence of many old bird friends, most numerous among which were the chickadees, bush-tits and Audubon warblers.

A Hutton vireo called repeatedly from a tree by the roadside as we started up the hill. Out in the open three hawks soared and displayed their red tails.

A few pipits and meadow-larks were seen while we were at lunch at the top of the ridge. This was good horned lark country, but none were spied until the party resumed its way after lunch. Then, just beyond the crest of the hill, two were found feeding, and they formed the center of interest for several minutes.

A flock of fourteen band-tailed pigeons was sighted as we approached the lake. At the lake were seen several great blue herons, grebes, coots, mallard and ruddy ducks. Some of the party went down to the lower end of the lake to see the Canada geese, the scaup and the ruddy ducks at close range.

Birds encountered were: Western, American eared, and pied-billed grebes; California great blue heron; honker Canada goose; mallard, canvas-back, scaup and ruddy ducks; Northern turkey vulture; sharp-shinned, Western red-tailed, and desert sparrow hawks; coast California quail; American coot; spotted sandpiper; California gull; Northern band-tailed pigeon; Anna and Allen humming-birds; Western belted kingfisher; downy woodpecker; Monterey red-shafted flicker; Northern say and black phoebes; California horned lark; Southern coast steller and Southern California jays; California plain titmouse; Santa Cruz chestnut-backed chickadee; Pacific coast bush-tit; intermediate wren-tit; vigors Bewick wren; dwarf hermit thrush; Western robin; Western Mexican bluebird; ruby-crowned kinglet; American pipit; California Hutton vireo; Pacific Audubon warbler; Western meadow-lark; California Brewer blackbird; California purple finch; California linnet; green-backed Arkansas goldfinch; Northern pine-siskin; San Francisco spotted and San Francisco brown towhees; fox sparrow, Point Pinos Oregon junco, Nuttall white-crowned, golden-crowned and Santa Cruz song sparrows. Fifty-three species.

Members in attendance: Mesdames Bracelin, Kibbe, Mexia; the Misses Burroughs, Ethel Crum, Haefner, Paroni, Payne; Dr. Card; Messrs. Bacon, Bryant, Lockerbie, Myer. As guests: The Misses Kautz, Meyer; Messrs. Friedman, Jussel, Vick; Scouts Dave Bacigalupi, Armand Barnett, Milton Friedman, Dick Jacobi, Jess Oppenheimer and Bill Rousseau. Thirteen members and eleven guests.

OLIVE BURROUGHS, *Historian.*

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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Treasurer.....	Chas. Bryant.....	Room 1011, 65 Market St., San Francisco

Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. G. Earle Kelly, 1311 Grand St., Alameda.

Subscription to Bulletin alone, 35c per year.

Membership dues, payable January 1, \$3.00 per year